SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA

NINETEEN HUNDRED
TWENTY-EIGHT

Seventy-third Annual Report

of the

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

for the

Year Ending February 29, 1928

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
OFFICERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
Year Ending February 29, 1928.

BYRON MAUZY ..... President
TIREY L. FORD ..... First Vice-President
OTTO VON GELDERN ..... Second Vice-President
JAMES H. LYONS ..... Treasurer

EDWARD H. BENJAMIN	CONSTANT MEESE
H. W. CROZIER	DR. ARTHUR W. SCOTT
JOSEPH M. CUMMING	JAMES SPIERS
GEORGE U. HIND	CHARLES D. STEIGER
DR. JOSEPH D. HODGEN	ELGIN STODDARD

JOHN H. WOOD ..... Secretary

Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

FRANCIS B. GRAVES ..... Librarian

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

Mechanics' Institute Chess and Checker Club

57 Post Street
San Francisco, Cal.

The Library now contains over ninety-eight thousand volumes.
Special attention is given to the division of technology.
Over four hundred periodicals and newspapers are on file.
A chess and checker room is maintained where smoking is permitted.
Lecture courses are held each season.
Library open daily, 9:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M.
Sundays and Holidays, 1:00 P. M. to 5:00 P. M.
Chess Room, Daily, 9:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Entrance Fee	$ 1.00
Half-yearly Dues (in advance)	3.00
Life Membership	100.00

Non-residents may use the Library for one month on payment of fifty cents.

A member may introduce a friend (not a resident of the city) who will be allowed the use of the Library rooms for one month.

LIBRARY RULES.

Members may take out two books at a time and extra books on payment of five cents each.

New fiction may be kept one week only. Other books may be kept two weeks and the time may be extended for two weeks longer by giving notice at the Library desk, or by mail or telephone (Sutter 360). A charge of two cents a day will be made on books kept over time.

Members' requests for books to be purchased will receive careful consideration.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

San Franicsco, March 8, 1928.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute.

This is the seventy-fourth year of the existence of the Mechanics' Institute and we have cause to rejoice again in its continued prosperity.

The Library has grown in the number of books and in importance, and our finances show a healthy increase. While our membership has decreased approximately five per cent since the last annual report, the circulation of books has increased more than two per cent over that of the previous year with its larger membership, showing that the privileges of the Institute are being used, per capita, to a greater extent. An increase is noted in the circulation of all classes of books in the reference and technical department, the net increase being over six per cent; while in the circulation department all classes of books except foreign literature and fiction show an increase. The net circulation in this department is about one and one-half per cent less than that of last year.

Your Lecture Committee this year, instead of having a single lecturer for a course of several lectures as heretofore adopted the plan of selecting a number of lecturers and a variety of subjects, using the lectures department of the Extension Division of the University of California as its source of supply. The approval that has been expressed by our lecture patrons is the best indication that the committee's choice was a happy one.

So far we have heard Professor Raymond G. Gettell speak on "Recent International Controversies," Frayne Williams on "The Italian Drama," Professor Alexander Kaun on "The New Slav States," Professor Paul Perigord on "European and American Civilizations," Professor Lyman Bryson on "Joseph Conrad and Modern Romanticism," Professor Thomas F. Sanford on "California, Discovery and Making." Four of the lectures are yet to be given—March 22d, Professor Frederic T. Blanchard on "Frank Norris, Interpreter of the West," April 5th, Professor Paul Fletcher Cadman on "The Challenge of a Changing World," April 19th, Ethel Elliott Swan, Dramatic Reading, "Mister Antonio," May 3d, Professor Charles A. Kofoid on "Scientific Research; Its Accomplishments and Problems."

The Secretary's financial report is before you and is well worth careful attention. Briefly analyzing it I find that the total of bonds, mortgages, and cash on hand at this time is somewhat over $22,000 more than it was a year ago. The building income is slightly less than that of last year and is accounted for by the fact that during the year the Engineers Club moved from the ninth floor; this required several months time to convert the vacant space into offices, during which time no rent was received. There appears to be an excess of some $5000 in library dues. This, however, I am sorry to say, is not an actual gain but is due to the fact that an amendment to the Constitution requires that dues be paid six months in advance. The actual income from dues for the year is slightly less than that of last year because of the decreased membership. The operating expense of the building shows an apparent increase of $2800, $1200 of which is accounted for by reason of the fact that a change in the method of paying salaries semi-monthly instead of monthly as had been the custom, brought into the account for the year an extra half month's charge which is not an actual extra expenditure. This is true also in the case of the library expenditure account and when this item is taken into consideration it will show a decrease over last year's account. During the year $68,500 of our Liberty bonds were redeemed. A sum of $27,644.53 was reinvested in bonds, and another of $35,000 placed on a first deed of trust on San Francisco real estate.

During the year Mr. George Beanston, the dean of the Board of Trustees, resigned and Mr. George U. Hind was elected to fill his place. Mr. Beanston became a member of the Board in 1900 and at different times served as Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. As a member of the Library Committee he rendered valuable service, particularly in the building up of the library after the fire of 1906. It was only at his most urgent request that the Board of Trustees accepted his resignation.

It is with great sorrow that I announce the recent sudden death of Trustee Horace P. Howard, a member of the Board since 1922. Had Mr. Howard lived he would have been installed at this meeting for a new term of office on the Board.

I am pleased to report the gift of some three hundred volumes comprising the library of the late Rosa G. Taussig. The collection consists of many volumes not already on our library shelves

together with a number of choice bindings. The gift was made through the courtesy of Messrs. Laurence R. and Eric B. Taussig who presented to the Institute sometime ago the three thousand volume collection of the late Rudolph J. Taussig, for many years the Institute's president.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish to express to the members of the Institute again my appreciation for returning to office the seven members whose term expired this year: Messers. H. W. Crozier, Joseph M. Cumming, George U. Hind, H. P. Howard, James H. Lyons, Constant Meese and James Spiers. One half of the number of members of the Board are elected every year for a two-year term, and the fact that you have year after year re-elected the members of the Board is, I may say, a recognition by the membership of work well done.

Our Secretary is also our building manager and as such he deserves special mention for the manner in which he restored the ninth floor of the building after the removal of the Engineers Club. He not only secured a new tenant for the entire floor at an increased rental, but after making an adjustment with the Engineers Club for that portion of the work required to be done by it under the terms of its lease, and securing a figure to do all of the work by contracts, he proceeded to do it with the same contractors on a cost-plus basis, using such salvaged material as was available, at a saving to the Institute of approximately $5700.

Special mention is also due our Librarian for his continued interest in the development of the library.

BYRON MAUZY,

President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the Year Ending February 29, 1928.

San Francisco, March 8, 1928.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute,
San Francisco.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 29, 1928:

March 1, 1927, Cash on deposit in various banks		$ 25,319.08
Cash in contingent funds		225.00
Total Cash		$ 25,544.08

Receipts.

Mechanics' Institute Building—rent collections from March 1, 1927, to February 29, 1928.		$ 67,692.71	
Interest, Ernest N. Atkins Memorial Fund		30.00	
Interest, James Lick Fund		600.00	
Interest, Commercial and Savings Account		1,013.02	
Interest, Mortgage Receivable Accounts		7,194.99	
Interest, Bonds		27,926.07	
Library and General Administration:			
Dues	$ 25,886.00		
Entrance Fees	734.00		
Books Paid For	143.92		
Fines and Extra Books	2,769.65		
Life Membership	100.00		
Sundry	31.55		
		29,665.12	
Received from Investments Accounts:			
Bonds sold and redeemed	68,500.00		
Premium on bonds sold	1,512.50		
		70,012.50	
Total Cash received			204,134.41
			$229,678.49

Expenditures.

Mechanics' Institute Building—operating expenses from March 1, 1927, to February 29, 1928.		
Pay Roll	$ 15,821.20	
Taxes	8,592.99	
Insurance	1,676.50	
Equipment	85.00	
Heat	809.54	
Light and Power	2,773.06	
Water	194.39	
Window Cleaning	420.00	
Supplies	757.00	
Repairs	912.30	
General Expense	835.90	
		$32,877.88

Library and General Administration:			
Books, Binding and Periodicals	$ 13,724.17		
Furniture and Equipment	848.14		
General Expense	2,504.99		
Insurance	872.17		
Legal Expense	250.00		
Lectures	926.25		
Printing and Stationery	426.07		
Salaries	28,766.21		
Supplies	130.45		
Taxes	60.30		
Monthly Bulletin	173.50		
Rent of Library Rooms	18,720.00		
Alterations to Library Rooms	388.18		
Pension Account	969.65		
Sundry	15.00		
		$68,775.08	
Accrued Bond Interest Paid		391.47	
Post Street Building—Alterations Account		10,497.78	
Total			$112,542.21
Investments Account:			
Bonds Purchased		$27,644.53	
Premium Paid on Bonds		986.78	
Mortgage Account		35,000.00	
Total			$ 63,631.31
			$176,173.52
Cash on hand in various banks, Feb. 29, 1928	$ 53,279.97		
Cash on hand in contingent funds	225.00		
Total Cash			$ 53,504.97
			$229,678.49

Summary.

Cash on hand, March 1, 1927		$ 25,544.08
Total Receipts	$134,121.91	
Total Expense	112,542.21	
Excess Receipts		21,579.70
Received from Investments Account		70,012.50
		$117,136.28

Distribution.

Cash in various banks, February 29, 1928	$ 53,279.97	
Cash in contingent funds	225.00	
Total Cash		$ 53,504.97
Investments made from surplus		63,631.31
		$117,136.28

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books, Binding and Periodicals has been	$243,154.59
The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc., of the Post Street Building has been	$371,605.50

Insurance is carried as follows:

Books	$100,000.00
Furniture	7,500.00
Post Street Building—Fire and Earthquake, each	276,500.00

The Resources of the Mechanics' Institute are as follows:

Post Street lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.

First Mortgages for $131,800.00 on San Francisco Real Estate.

Bonds to the par value of $540,606.40, as follows:

$235,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., City Hall 5%.
8,500.00	San Francisco, Cal., Municipal Railway 5%.
4,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Water 4½%.
2,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Fire Protection 5%.
29,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Golden Gate Park 3½%.
1,000.00	San Francisco, Cal., Playground 3½%.
200.00	San Francisco, Cal., Library 3½%.
9,000.00	Albany, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
2,262.50	Berkeley, Cal., Municipal Improvement 4½%.
5,000.00	Berkeley, Cal., School District 5%.
1,875.00	Chico, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
3,000.00	Cloverdale, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
10,000.00	East Bay Municipal Utilities 5%.
2,000.00	Exeter, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
2,000.00	Gilroy, Cal., School District 5%.
2,000.00	Grass Valley, Cal., High School District 6%.
2,000.00	Hanford, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
7,500.00	Livermore, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
10,000.00	Marin Municipal Water District 5%.
1,000.00	Merced Union High School 6%.
4,393.90	Monterey, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
700.00	Nevada City, Cal., Sewer 6%.
7,000.00	Oakland, Cal., School District 5%.
2,500.00	Oakland, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.
500.00	Oxnard, Cal., Water 5%.
5,000.00	Petaluma, Cal., City High School 6%.
450.00	Piedmont, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
3,000.00	Pittsburg, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
5,000.00	Placerville, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
7,000.00	Placerville, Cal., School District 5%.
3,000.00	Richmond, Cal., Municipal Harbor Improvement 6%.
1,000.00	Richmond, Cal., School District 4½%.
5,000.00	Richmond, Cal., School District 5%.
5,000.00	Richmond, Cal., School District 5½%.
7,000.00	Sacramento, Cal., New Levee 4½%.
5,000.00	Sacramento, Cal., School District 4½%.
8,000.00	Sacramento, Cal., High School District 4½%.
4,000.00	Salinas, Cal., Union High School District 5%.

5,000.00 San Jose, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
15,000.00 San Luis Obispo, Cal., School District 6%.
1,000.00 San Mateo, Cal., Union High School 6%.
5,000.00 Santa Barbara, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
1,125.00 Santa Barbara, Cal., School District 4½%.
1,000.00 Santa Maria, Cal., Union High School District 6%.
10,000.00 Santa Rosa, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
1,000.00 Sequoia, Cal., Union High School District 6%.
10,000.00 Stockton, Cal., School District 5%.
2,600.00 Visalia, Cal., Municipal Improvement 6%.
5,000.00 Washington, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
1,000.00 Williams, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5½%.
25,000.00 Butte County, Cal., Highway 5%.
20,000.00 Fresno County, Cal., 5%.
5,000.00 Merced County, Cal., 5%.
7,000.00 Sonoma County, Cal., 5%.
5,000.00 California State Highway 4½%.
5,000.00 California State University Building 4½%.
5,000.00 United States Liberty 3rd 4¼%.
Cash in various banks, $53,504.97.
Books, Furniture and Equipment of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN H. WOOD, Secretary.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

San Francisco, March 8, 1928.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute.

Gentlemen: I herewith submit the Seventy-third Annual Report of the Library for the year ending February 29, 1928:

Membership.

March 1, 1927		4,734
Added—Subscribing	738	
Reinstated	10	748
		5,482
Withdrawn—Life (deceased)	16	
Subscribing	974	990
Membership February 29, 1928		4,492

During the year sixteen subscribing members who had paid continuously for thirty years were granted life memberships.

The membership is divided as follows:

Honorary	3
Life	700
Subscribing	3,789
	4,492

Book Accessions.

Number of volumes listed March 1, 1927		102,056
Added by purchase	3,573	
Added by binding	477	
Added by gift	172	4,222
		106,278
Less lost and paid for	39	
Discarded and lost	7,544	
Donated to institutions	500	8,083
Number of volumes listed February 29, 1928		98,195

Binding.

485 volumes were rebound at the bindery and 2,339 volumes were repaired in the Library.

Gifts.

3,361 unbound items, consisting of pamphlets, serials, and newspapers, were presented to the Library.

Accessions by Classes.

	Purchased	Cost	Bound	Cost	Gifts	Total
General Works	41	$ 191.04	79	$ 170.75	23	143
Philosophy	78	186.89	7	14.20	3	88
Religion	43	100.12	..	.....	5	48
Sociology	200	852.81	38	88.75	61	299
Philology	5	15.87	..	.....	..	5
Science	119	488.21	69	148.60	20	208
Useful Arts	230	1,050.75	201	472.65	24	455
Fine Arts	143	544.43	49	123.75	4	196
Literature	237	533.44	6	12.40	4	247
Foreign Literature	8	10.54	13	19.50	7	28
Travel	187	671.36	5	10.40	4	196
Biography	308	1,016.04	1	2.00	1	310
History	161	481.24	9	18.40	11	181
Fiction & Children's Bks.	1,813	3,117.22	..	.....	5	1,818
	3,573	$9,259.96	477	$1,081.40	172	4,222

Circulation.

There were issued for home use 165,253 volumes, an average of 13,771 volumes per month.

Table of Circulation Statistics.

General Works	303	Foreign Literature	2,126
Philosophy	2,688	Travel	7,691
Religion	1,372	Biography	7,324
Sociology	3,515	History	4,145
Philology	136	Fiction	108,929
Science	3,256	Children's Books	1,270
Useful Arts	5,993	Periodicals	2,812
Fine Arts	4,498		
Literature	9,195		165,253

Fiction	108,929	volumes,	65.92	per cent
Children's Books	1,270	"	0.77	" "
Non-fiction	55,054	"	33.31	" "

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS B. GRAVES, Librarian.

APPENDIX.

Year Ending Feb. 28	Membership Subscribing	Life and Honorary	Total	Volumes in Library	Circulation
1928	3,789	703	4,492	98,195	165,253
1927	4,032	702	4,734	102,056	161,980
1926	4,030	690	4,723	98,696	164,347
1925	4,170	690	4,860	94,992	169,631
1924	4,356	652	5,008	91,433	172,712
1923	4,317	657	4,974	87,855	172,902
1922	4,160	646	4,806	84,056	175,502
1921	3,842	650	4,492	80,776	150,376
1920	3,408	649	4,057	77,140	128,480
1919	2,994	653	3,647	73,128	101,728
1918	3,135	590	3,725	70,055	118,159
1917	3,144	598	3,742	65,875	132,721
1916	2,982	617	3,599	63,672	127,866
1915	2,862	626	3,488	56,740	131,687
1914	2,709	632	3,341	50,776	125,650
1913	2,855	643	3,498	44,527	118,998
1912	2,660	644	3,304	39,266	110,194
1911	2,385	651	3,036	35,392	88,753
1910	1,717	645	2,362	32,186	71,741
1909	2,034	646	2,680	28,324	83,042
1908	2,120	643	2,763	24,179	.....
1907	2,726	651	3,377	17,850	.....
April 18, 1906	....	...	4,150	.....	.....

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS.

In Print.

Annual Reports, 1907 to date.

List of books on architecture. August, 1913.

List of books on building and building materials. December, 1913.

List of books on electrical engineering. June, 1916.

List of books on petroleum. January, 1917.

List of books on aeronautics and military and naval engineering. January, 1918.

List of books added during 1914-1927.